
Government of the District of Columbia



DC Department of Public Works

Testimony of
William O. Howland, Jr.

Director

Capital Improvements Public Oversight Hearing

February 6, 2008

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Vincent C. Gray, Chairperson
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Jim Graham, Chairperson
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Kwame Brown, Chairperson

John A. Wilson Building
Room 500
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

**Testimony of William O. Howland, Jr.
Director, Department of Public Works
Capital Improvements Public Oversight Hearing
Before the Committee of the Whole,
Committee on Public Works and the Environment and the
Committee on Economic Development
Wednesday, February 6, 2008**

- Good morning Chairman Gray, Chairman Graham, Chairman Brown, Councilmembers and staff. I am William O. Howland, Jr., Director of the Department of Public Works (DPW).
- The mission of the Department of Public Works is to provide environmentally healthy municipal services that are both ecologically sound and cost effective. This mission is the foundation of DPW's capital program, which totaled \$18,400,000 in FY07 and \$11,195,000 in FY08.
- Our main focus continues to be the renovation of our West Virginia Avenue Campus, located in the heart of Ward 5, in the Ivy City-Trinidad neighborhood, which is a key hotspot area. We plan to consolidate most of our operations onto this central campus, which is District-owned land.

- This consolidation results from our solid waste operations vacating their sites to make way for Southeast Waterfront economic development that will benefit the entire city.
- This project will be the primary DPW operations center, housing 800 employees and more than 550 pieces of equipment. The new campus plan involves upgrading old buildings to new District standards and building new facilities that will be environmentally friendly and energy efficient.
- This center also will provide separate customer and employee staging areas that will improve safety, mitigate risk, secure agency assets, and provide a more effective use of space to perform DPW operations.

Status of Key Programs/Projects

- The Fort Totten Trash Transfer Facility is on schedule. All significant tasks will be completed by February 15th.
- The Sweeper Operations Center at 201 Bryant Street, NW is scheduled to be completed and turned over to the District in November. It is a one-year project with a Notice to Proceed Date of October 16, 2007.

- The 12 DPW fueling stations all have been brought up to minimum Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and District Department of the Environment (DDOE) standards. Additional improvements are underway to maximize their efficiency and safety.
- The Fenwick Building on West Virginia Avenue is scheduled to be demolished next month. This will make room for DPW's Fleet Customer Service Intake Center, the Snow Equipment Staging Area and the Packer Storage Facility.
- I would like to add that the Master Equipment Lease program to secure equipment totaled \$7,328,000 in FY 2007 and \$6,195,000 in FY 2008.

Critical Challenges to Delivering Services in the FY 2007-2008 Program

- We face two challenges to the successful completion of the Department's capital program. DPW's first challenge is to coordinate the multiple projects on the West Virginia Campus without disruption of critical operations. The center will be operational even as construction is underway. The second, and more difficult challenge, is to identify alternative field sites for our street and alley cleaning operation.

- DPW's two key street cleaning equipment yards are located at 1125 O Street, SE and 900 New Jersey Avenue, SE, directly in the path of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative and in the development zone for Nationals Park.
- The mechanical sweeping operation will move to the Bryant Street facility next fall. We are working with the Office of Property Management to identify locations to house the remaining operations.
- Each year DPW uses the capital improvement program to improve the quality of our services to the District. The Department's current six-year capital improvement program is designed to plan and implement the necessary physical improvements to keep our facilities safe and operational. These improvements not only will enable DPW to operate more efficiently, they also will add to the economic vitality of the neighborhoods where our facility improvements are planned.
- Thank you for the opportunity to address the Council on this important issue. I am prepared to answer your questions.